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SOC EXPERTS

Interview Questions on **Threat Intelligence**

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What is Threat Intelligence?

- Threat intelligence is knowledge that allows organization to prevent or mitigate cyberattacks esp. zero-day malwares or exploits.
- It is a subscription based services offered by many vendors.
- Technically TI is a database of Indicators of Compromise.

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Name few open source Threat Intelligence feeds.

- Abuse.ch
- OSINT
- threatfeeds.io
- autoshun.org
- malwaredomainlist.com

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Name few commercial Threat Intelligence feeds.

- IBM X-Force Exchange
- Anomali ThreatStream
- Palo Alto Networks AutoFocus
- FireEye iSIGHT Threat Intelligence
- Recorded Future

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What is an IOC?

- IOC Stands for Indicators of Compromise. Its an attribute (forensic data) associated with an attack.
- IOC focuses on what of an attack.
- Attributes associated with an attack might include - **IP address, URL, email, file hash etc.**

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What is IOA?

- IOA stands for Indicators of Attack.
- IOAs focus more on the WHY and intent of an actor.
- IOA is some events that could reveal an active attack before indicators of compromise become visible. Like, unknown process running
- Unlike Indicators of Compromise (IOCs) used by legacy endpoint detection solutions, indicators of attack (IOA) focus on detecting the intent of what an attacker is trying to accomplish.

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What Are the Common Indicators of Compromise obtained from Threat Intelligence?

- **IP addresses, URLs and Domain names**: An example would be malware targeting an internal host that is communicating with a known threat actor.
- **Email addresses, email subject, links and attachments**: An example would be a phishing attempt that relies on an unsuspecting user clicking on a link or attachment and initiating a malicious command.
- **Registry keys, filenames and file hashes and DLLs**: An example would be an attack from an external host that has already been flagged for nefarious behavior or that is already infected.

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What security solutions use Threat Intelligence?

- In todays world almost every prevention and detection system use TI feeds.
- AV solutions can use to check the malicious hashes
- Firewall can use TI to check blacklisted IP etc.

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How does Threat Intelligence work?

Threat Intelligence Works in 2 ways

- Few TI feeds let you download the IOC database on-prem (like integrating into SIEM lists)
- Few other TI, works as a subscription based, every time you need to check the reputation of a file, URL or IP address, the security solution makes a quick light-weight query to the TI server, get the responses and take appropriate actions.

Where do you install Threat Intelligence in the network?

This is a trick question.

- TI is not installed on-prem, it is a subscription based services offered by many vendors.

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Why Is Threat Intelligence Important?

- TI helps to keep companies informed of the advanced threats, exploits and zero-day threats that they are most vulnerable to and how to take action against them.

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What is US-CERT?

- It is a website maintained by US Department of Homeland Security. It is a good source of TI.
- US-Cert release information about new threats in the form of Technical Alerts

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Example of how you have consumed TI?

- Integrating TI feeds with SIEM
- Using IPVoid , URLVoid or VirusTotal during analysis of any alert
- Ad-hoc reports for latest attacks (using their IOCs)

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How TI can be integrated with SIEM?

- TI can be integrated using Lists. These lists should be updated regularly to get the latest IOCs

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What are TAXII and STIX?

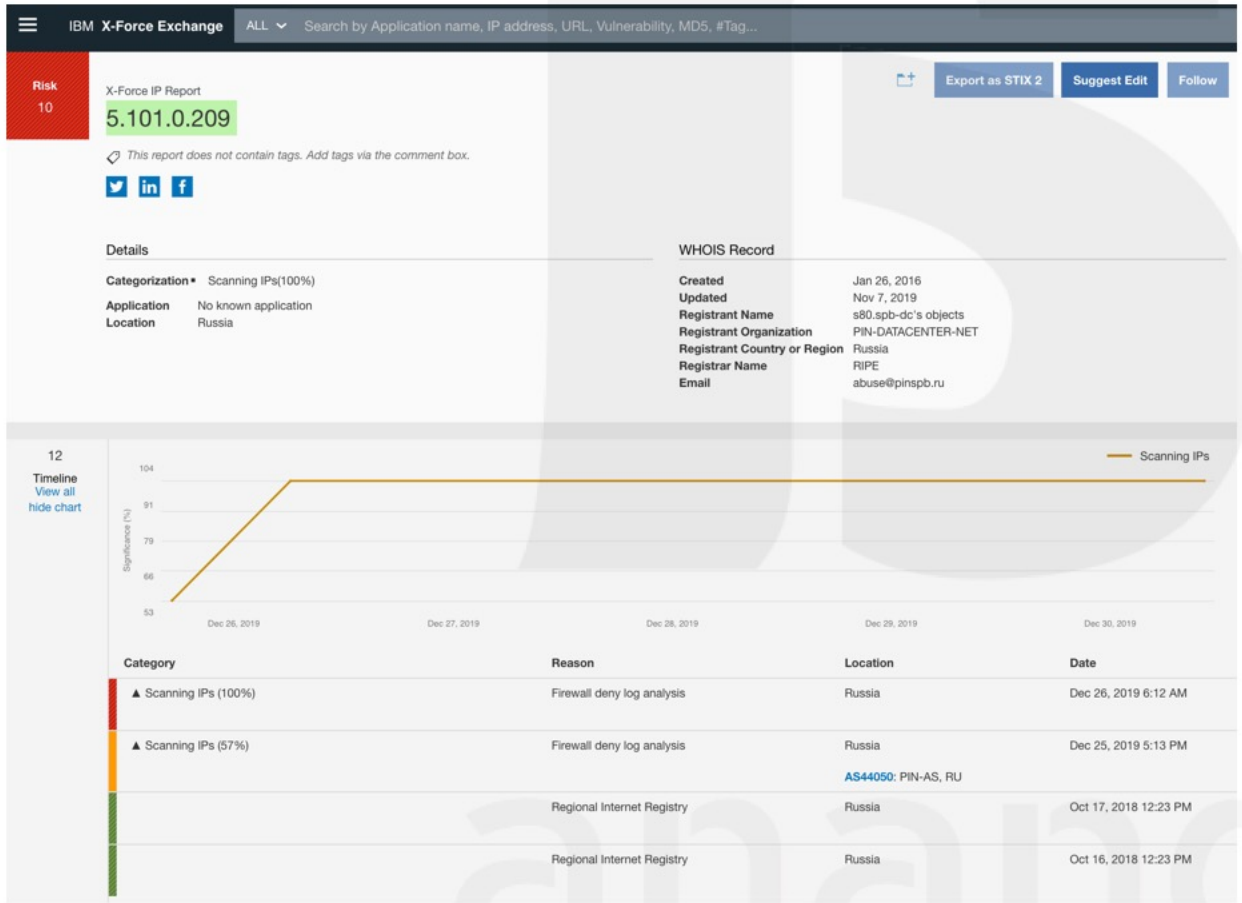
- Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX™) is a language and serialization format used to exchange cyber threat intelligence (CTI).
- Structured Threat Information eXpression (STIX) is a structured language for cyber threat intelligence

- Trusted Automated eXchange of Indicator Information (TAXII™) is a free and open transport mechanism that standardizes the automated exchange of cyber threat information.
- A transport mechanism for sharing cyber threat intelligence
- Example: http://hailataxii.com/

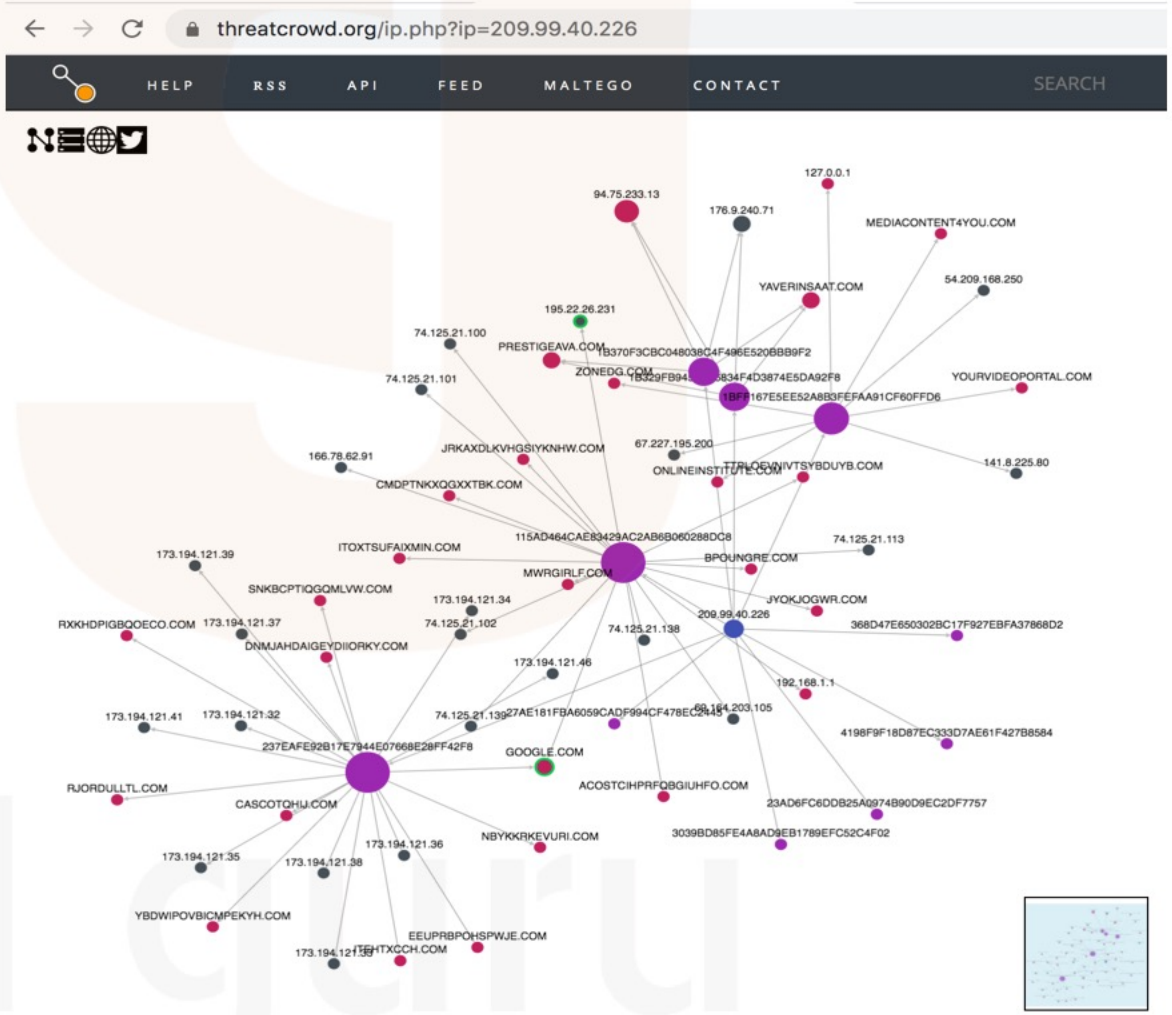
STIX states the what of threat intelligence, while TAXII defines how that information is relayed. STIX and TAXII are machine-readable and therefore easily automated.

Which is you favorite TI?

- IBM X-Force
  - Provides an exact score
  - Gives a timeline of how the IP was behaving over a period of time



- Threat Crowd
  - Gives a graphical representation of association of various attributes like domain name, IPs and file hashes



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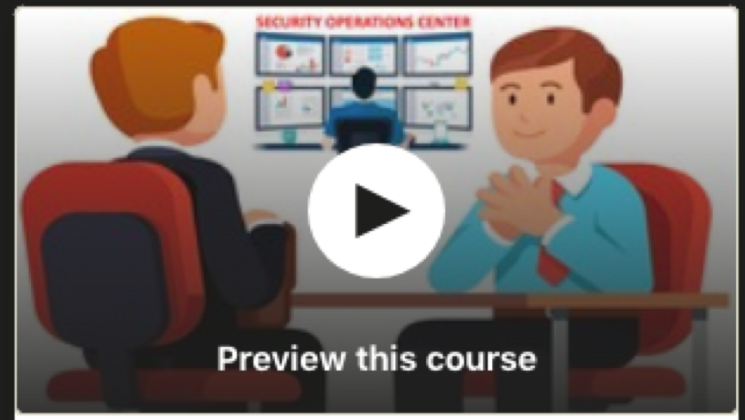

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